

CITY OF RIVERSIDE

May 28, 2004

Margaret Malone, Foreperson
2003-04 Riverside County Grand Jury
Post Office Box 829
Riverside, CA 92502

Subject: City's Response to the 2003-04 Grand Jury Report: Animal Services Riverside County/Riverside City Shelter; Our File No. 04-1200

Dear Ms. Malone:

This letter is in response to your recent inquiries as to whether the City of Riverside would be filing a formal written response to the Grand Jury's Report pursuant to *California Penal Code* section 933 *et seq.* As noted in the Grand Jury's Report, the Riverside County/Riverside City Animal Shelter is overseen by the Riverside County Community Health Agency and operated under the County's Department of Animal Services. The City of Riverside, like several other cities in the county, contract with the County's Department of Animal Services to provide animal shelter services.

As you are further aware, the County of Riverside has prepared and submitted a formal response to the Grand Jury's Report as the real party in interest and commissioned an audit of the County's Department of Animal Services. Moreover, on January 6, 2004, the Riverside City Council appointed two of its members to a Joint City/County Task Force to participate in a review of the audit. Enclosed are copies of the City Council minutes of January 6, 2004 as well as the Board's minutes of January 13, 2004.

We are confident that the County of Riverside will work cooperatively with the City of Riverside to address the issues raised in the Grand Jury's Report. We have reviewed the preliminary findings of the audit being performed by the Humane Society of the United States, and look forward to reviewing the final audit report this summer.

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

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In closing, I would respectfully request that all future inquires regarding the management and operation of the Animal Shelter be directed to the Executive Office of the County of Riverside.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Gregory P. Priamos
City Attorney

GPP/abs

Enclosures

c: George A. Carvalho, City Manager
Troy Brown, Assistant to the City Manager
Joe Rank, Chief Deputy County Counsel